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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: The DOJ/MS settlement is bad

The DOJ/MS "settlement" is bad. REALLY bad. This sends a really bad message that if you break the law, it's cheap insurance to donate soft money to a candidate, then reel in the favors.

How is a new consent decree going to prevent problems the 1995 decree did not prevent? Windows XP and .NET look appear to be the ultimate joke of the whole legal process.. I can't see how Windows XP could violate the past decree any more, if they tried.

How can Microsoft be "forced" to open up their protocols, to allow interoperability with the competition... when the decision is ultimately Microsoft's to make. The loopholes for denying information.. "viable competitor" and "except for security concerns" are loopholes big enough to drive an 18-wheeler through. What about Microsoft's *bigger* monopoly... the Office suite market?

A structural remedy means MS will have to compete on equal terms. You might even have a choice in software suites... consider for a moment how many people or businesses actually read reviews of different office suites. None. Why is that? Because other office suites cannot keep up with the *momentum* of... not features.. but the ever-changing, undocumented secret Office file formats.

Lastly, this settlement completely ignores the issue of punishment, which is something expected when someone breaks the law... especially if they boast.

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